

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8245

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

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USMISSION NATO

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REPORTS AID-CUT DEVELOPMENTS

1. THE TURKISH PRESS THURSDAY (MARCH 6) CONTINUED
TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE CUT-OFF OF
U.S. MILITARY AID. THREE FRONT PAGE STORIES
APPEARING IN DIVERSE PAPERS WERE OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST:

-- THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)-ORIENTED DAILY BARIS
REPORTED AMBASSADOR MACOMBER'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE UNDER THE HEADLINE:
"MACOMBER: 'TURKEY IS A COUNTRY SUBSERVIENT TO NOBODY'".

-- PRO-RPP MILLIYET CARRIED AN EXCLUSIVE BY NILUFER YALCIN
UNDER THE HEADLINE: "GENERAL HAIG: 'NATO CANNOT GIVE UP

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TURKEY."

-- CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN, UNDER THE HEADLINE "GREEK-AMERICAN BRADEMÁS: 'THE AID CANNOT CONTINUE'" CARRIED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE INDIANA CONGRESSMAN UNDER A WASHINGTON DATELINE.

2. THE BARIS STORY REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TESTIFIED BEFORE A CLOSE-DOOR SESSION OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF A BILL WHICH WOULD PERMIT RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. AFTER TESTIFYING, THE STORY SAID, MACOMBER TOLD NEWSMEN THAT TURKEY WAS A LONG-TIME AMERICAN ALLY BUT THAT IT WAS A COUNTRY SUBSERVIENT TO NO ONE. HE DECLARED THAT TURKEY WOULD NEVER MAKE CONCESSIONS UNDER PRESSURE AND THAT THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO COULD PUSH TURKEY TOWARD RADICAL ARAB COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT. THE BARIS STORY WAS BASED ON WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS WHICH WERE ALSO USED ON INSIDE PAGES OF TERCUMAN AND MILLIYET AND WERE BASIS FOR RADIO NEWS REPORTS MARCH 6.

3. ACCORDING TO THE MILLIYET STORY, GENERAL HAIG TOLD TURKISH OFFICIALS DURING HIS VISIT (MAR. 4-6) THAT THE NATO DEFENSE COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO DISCUSS TURKEY'S NEEDS FOR ARMAMENTS. THE GENERAL REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT NATO AS SUCH HAS NO ARMS STOCKPILES AND THAT AS LONG AS THE U.S. EMBARGO REMAINS IN EFFECT, U.S. SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT IN EUROPEAN HANDS COULD NOT BE GIVEN TO TURKEY. ACCORDING TO THE YALCIN ACCOUNT, GENERAL HAIG DECLARED TURKEY WAS VITAL TO THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE AND NATO COULD NOT GIVE HER UP. THE GENERAL ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD TURKISH OFFICIALS HE WAS "CERTAIN" CONGRESS WOULD PERMIT THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID.

4. THE TERCUMAN STORY, RUN UNDER A PICTURE OF CORRESPONDENT NECDET BERKAND INTERVIEWING MR. BRADEMÁS, IDENTIFIED HIM AS "THE LEADER OF THE PRO-GREEK GROUP IN THE CONGRESS." ACCORDING TO BERKAND, REP. BRADEMÁS STRESSED THAT U.S. LAW REQUIRED AID TO BE CUT OFF AFTER THE JULY 20 CYPRUS LANDING AND "FIERCELY" CRITICIZED SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR FAILING TO ORDER AN AID CUT-OFF IMMEDIATELY. "THIS WAS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE SINCE WATERGATE. NOBODY CAN BE ABOVE THE LAW," UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE," MR. BRADEMÁS REPORTEDLY SAID. IN THE REMAINDER OF THE INTERVIEW, THE CONGRESSMAN REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS AMONG ALL THE PARTIES, GREECE, TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES, AND DENIED THAT PRESSURE FROM GREEK-AMERICAN CONSTITUENTS WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE AID CUT-OFF. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE ON GOOD TERMS AS LONG AS 40 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND REMAINS IN

TURKISH CONTROL AND 200 THOUSAND GREEKS REMAIN IN REFUGEE
CAMPS, ACCORDING TO TERCUMAN.
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